

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please accept amended Claims 20, 27-31 and 33, and new Claims 40-45 as follows:

Listing of claims:

1-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method for processing multimedia data in a computer system, comprising:

receiving as input a high-level concept describing data to be accessed;

translating the high-level concept into a low-level query by using stored concept constructs which are defined using features derived from a plurality of application domains, wherein the stored concept constructs are each represented using a hierarchical fuzzy graph data tree-structure comprising nodes that correspond to child-concepts and a subset of the features, aggregation edges that correspond to parent-child relationships, and association edges between siblings that correspond to inter-sibling constraints, wherein each aggregation edge is assigned a weight reflecting a relative importance of each child-concept in relation to its siblings and the relative importance corresponds to a relevance of a child-concept to the high-level concept; and ~~retrieving results~~ transferring the low-level query to one or more search engines to access information using the low-level query;

joining the results to obtain a match combination according to a matching algorithm, by determining an assignment for the child-concepts, subject to the inter-sibling constraints and the weights corresponding to the child-concepts; and

presenting the match combination to a user.

21. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 20, further comprising:
- storing the concept constructs in a concept library module;
 - storing the features in a feature library module;
 - storing constraints in a constraint library module; and
 - storing matching algorithms in a matching algorithm library module.
22. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 21, further comprising interfacing the library modules to the application domains.
23. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 21, further comprising building a concept construct.
24. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 23, wherein the step of building a concept construct comprise combining one or more of the features with zero or more of the stored concept and zero or more of the constraints.
25. (Canceled)
26. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 20, wherein the features are user defined.

27. (Currently Amended) A ~~program storage device~~ computer readable medium ~~by machine,~~
~~tangibly embodying a program of instructions executed executable by a processor~~ the machine to
perform method steps for processing multimedia data in a computer system, said method steps
comprising:

receiving as input a high-level concept describing data to be accessed;

translating the high-level concept into a low-level query by using stored concept
constructs which are defined using features derived from a plurality of application domains,
wherein the stored concept constructs are each represented using a hierarchical fuzzy graph data
tree-structure comprising nodes that correspond to child-concepts and a subset of the features,
aggregation edges that correspond to parent-child relationships, and association edges between
siblings that correspond to inter-sibling constraints, wherein each aggregation edge is assigned a
weight reflecting relative importance of each child-concept in relation to its siblings and
relative importance corresponds to a relevance of a child-concept to the high-level concept; and

transferring the low-level query to one or more search engines to access information
using the low-level query.

28. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium ~~program storage device~~ as defined in
Claim 27, further comprising:

storing the concept constructs in a concept library module;

storing the features in a feature library module;

storing constraints in a constraint library module; and

storing matching algorithms in a matching algorithm library module.

29. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium ~~program storage device~~ as defined in Claim 28, further comprising interfacing the library modules to the application domains.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium ~~program storage device~~ as defined in Claim 28, further comprising building a concept construct.

31. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium ~~program storage device~~ as defined in Claim 30, wherein the step of building a concept construct comprises combining one or more of the features with

zero or more of the stored concept and

zero or more of the constraints.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium ~~program storage device~~ as defined in Claim 27, wherein the features are user defined.

34-39. (Canceled)

40. (New) A computer readable medium embodying instructions executed by a processor to perform method steps for processing multimedia data in a computer system, said method steps comprising:

receiving as input a high-level concept describing data to be accessed;

translating the high-level concept into a low-level query by using stored concept constructs which are defined using features derived from a plurality of application domains, wherein the stored concept constructs are each represented using a hierarchical fuzzy graph data tree-structure comprising nodes that correspond to child-concepts and a subset of the features, aggregation edges that correspond to parent-child relationships, and association edges between siblings that correspond to inter-sibling constraints, wherein each aggregation edge is assigned a weight reflecting relative importance of each child-concept in relation to its siblings and the relative importance corresponds to a relevance of a child-concept to the high-level concept;

retrieving results using the low-level query;

joining the results to obtain a match combination according to a matching algorithm, by determining an assignment for the child-concepts, subject to the inter-sibling constraints and the weights corresponding to the child-concepts; and

presenting the match combination to a user.

41. (New) A computer readable medium as defined in Claim 40, further comprising:

storing the concept constructs in a concept library module;

storing the features in a feature library module;

storing constraints in a constraint library module; and

storing matching algorithms in a matching algorithm library module.

42. (New) A computer readable medium as defined in Claim 41, further comprising interfacing the library modules to the application domains.

43. (New) A computer readable medium as defined in Claim 41, further comprising building a concept construct.

44. (New) A computer readable medium as defined in Claim 43, wherein the step of building a concept construct comprises combining one or more of the features with zero or more of the stored concepts and zero or more of the constraints.

45. (New) A computer readable medium as defined in Claim 40, wherein the features are user defined.